

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PORT O 01546 191714Z
ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ICAE-00 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00
DODE-00 SS-15 SP-02 PA-01 /043 W
-----045014 211855Z /43

R 181215Z MAY 78
FM AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2452
INFO AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN
AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN
AMEMBASSY KINGSTON

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EO 11652 N/A
TAGS: SCUL, PINT, CU, TD
SUBJECT: FUNDING PROBLEMS FOR TRINIDADIAN PARTICIPATION
IN HAVANA WORLD YOUTH FESTIVAL

REF: (A) STATE 84164, (B) PORT OF SPAIN 1085

1. T&T'S NATIONAL PREPARATORY COMMITTEE (NPC) IS EXPERIENCING SEVERE DIFFICULTIES IN RAISING FUNDS TO SEND A CONTINGENT TO THE ELEVENTH WORLD FESTIVAL OF YOUTH AND STUDENTS IN HAVANA THIS SUMMER. "TRINIDAD GUARDIAN" OF MAY 13 REPORTS GODFREY MARTIN, AN EXECUTIVE MEMBER OF NPC, AS SAYING THAT THE GOTT'S "UNFORTUNATE STAND" ON THE FESTIVAL HAD FRIGHTENED OFF MANY POTENTIAL DONORS. SINCE ONLY ABOUT \$2,000 HAS BEEN RAISED THUS FAR, NPC HAS HALVED ITS ORIGINAL PLANNED EXPENDITURE FOR THE FESTIVAL TO ABOUT \$20,000 AND IS SEEKING FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FROM THE INTERNATIONAL SOLIDARITY FUND THROUGH THE CUBA-BASED INTERNATIONAL PREPARATORY COMMITTEE. MARTIN SAID, HOWEVER, THAT THE NPC STILL HOPES TO SEND UP TO 115 PEOPLE TO THE FESTIVAL AND HAS SCHEDULED TWO MAJOR FUND-RAISING EVENTS IN JUNE AND JULY TOWARD THAT END.

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2. COMMENT: WHILE LITTLE ENTHUSIASM COULD HAVE BEEN EXPECTED FOR THE HAVANA FESTIVAL AMONG LOCAL FIRMS AND OTHER POTENTIAL DONORS UNDER THE BEST OF CIRCUMSTANCES, THE GOTT'S NEGATIVE STANCE APPEARS TO HAVE ALL BUT PRECLUDED SIGNIFICANT LOCAL FUNDING FOR THE NPC.

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Message Attributes

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